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NSC BRIEFING

30 November 1959

CUBA

I. 26 November government shakeup is latest move by regime in its rapid trend to the left.

A. Shakeup brings pro-Communist "Che" Guevara, even more to the fore as new head of National Bank.

1. Guevara, 31-year-old Argentine soldier-of-fortune, is now in position to implement his precept that, to become truly independent, Cuba must shift pattern of trade away from dependence on US.

2. Guevara has no economic background and has concept of Cuban revolution as a class struggle that will change economic structure and social system.

3. New minister of public works, Osmani Cienfuegos, is probably a Communist.

4. Officials replaced are relative moderates; others likely soon to be replaced.

B. Communist-influenced National Agrarian Reform Institute (INRA) becoming all-powerful.

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DOCUMENT
10-11-59
CLASSIFIED
CLASSIFIED
NEXT REVIEW DATE
12-11-59
REVIEWER

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3. INRA expropriations and other activities to date do indeed suggest plans to control production and sale of all agricultural commodities, cattle, minerals, petroleum, and other raw materials.
 4. Lands taken are organized as state-owned cooperatives, not given to peasants as promised by Castro.
- C. On the surface Castro seems to have received a setback in Cuban Labor Federation elections for executive council last week, but Communists remain strong in labor.
1. David Salvador, who has record of cooperation with Communists, remains Fidel Castro's hand-picked secretary-general of the labor federation.

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